

January 9, 2024
The Honorable John Lee,
Chair, Committee on Public Works
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: River Valley Bike Path Project / Project Co-Location / Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash
Dog Park (CF 23-0559-S1)

My team and I would like to thank all of the passionate and engaged stakeholders who have lent their time and voices to this project. We have two amenities at play in the Sepulveda Basin Park. Since 1997, the off-leash dog park has been a special place for dogs and their owners to meet. The proposed LA RiverWay bike path is part of a bold vision to reimagine how we use the LA River and move across the San Fernando Valley. I'm encouraged by the participation of so many community stakeholders and City departments to ensure that the future bike path and the dog park are given careful consideration.

Last August, I asked BOE to conduct the report the committee has received, due to the determined and important voices of our stakeholders from the dog park community. Although much of this work occurred before my time in office, it is my utmost desire that any new project in CD6 considers community voice. BOE has laid out a reasoned case around how the current alignment is cost effective, efficient, and avoids conflict with the Basin's other property interests. They have also demonstrated potential design features to mitigate several of community concerns about safety and potential conflicts between dogs and bike path users.

Our city's limited number of dog parks must co-exist with many busy sidewalks and other paths and trails - dogs and their owners share space with walkers, runners, skaters, and cyclists. Based on the results of this report, I'm confident we can compromise on designing this bike path to lessen impact on safety for dogs while building a new route for cyclists to ride across the Valley. My office will work with stakeholders, BOE, and the River Rangers in a future design workshop to ensure that the bike path's design, in its current alignment, addresses concerns about safety and visibility for both dog and human users.

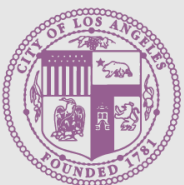
I am grateful for the hard work and collaboration from our City departments and the persistence of the stakeholders of the off-leash dog park and Basin bike path. We can design this project so that the dog park and the bike path will be able to co-exist together. I will continue to pursue projects that increase access and equity of our parks and public spaces. Let's work together, with respect and optimism, as we improve and manage our parks.

Sincerely,



Imelda Padilla, Councilmember
Los Angeles City Council - District 6

cc: Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Off-leash Dog Park
Deborah Weintraub, Bureau of Engineering
Marcelino Asuncio, Bureau of Engineering
Shun Yu Zhang, Bureau of Engineering
Department of Recreation and Parks - L.A. River Rangers



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